THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) and (b) India is a licit producer of opium. Some cases of diversion of opium to the illicit channel presumably for preparation of heroin have come to notice. Eight illicit laboratories in 2001 and seven in 2002 used for conversion of opium into heroin were busted.

Activities of ISI along Indo-Nepal Border

3469. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government discussed the subversive activities of ISI along Indo-Nepal border with the King of Nepal during his recent visit to the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what was the response of Nepalese King in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) to (c) During the meeting, various issues relating to Indo-Nepal border were discussed. It was assured by the Nepalese side that their terrority will not be allowed to be used for activities inimical to India's interests.

Cross-Border Terrorist Activities

3470. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Chief Minister of Assam regarding the transborder terrorist activities being carried out by some militant outfits which are being provided shelter and materia and moral support from some of our neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's response thereto and action, if any, taken thereor

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (c) The Government is aware about the existence of camps of North East Indian insurgents groups in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar, which are being used by them for safe havens, sanctuary, training purposes and launching of operations against Indian civilians and security forces. The Chief Minister of Assam has also drawn the attention of the Central Government in this regard.

The Government has already taken up the matter with the Governments of Bangladesh, Myanmar and Royal Government of Bhutan, who have assured that they will not allow these elements to use their territory for activities prejudicial to the interests of India.

Fight against terrorism

3471. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government agrees that the cancer of terrorism has to be dealt with at any cost;

(b) if so, whether Government also agrees that this is the single largest danger to humankind;

(c) whether Government also agrees that the best way to fight terrorism and succeed is through precautions and to take pre-emptive and pro-active measures; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken to finish the root of terrorism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) to (d) Cross-border terrorism is indeed one of the main threats to international security in the country. In order to tackle the menace of terrorism, the Central Government has adopted a pro-active multi-pronged approach which includes strengthening of the borders, galvanizing the intelligence machinery, modernization of State Police Forces and CPMFs and strengthening of international/bilateral cooperation to counter cross-border crime and terrorism.